A few verses in Zikorean Poetry Structure

Defining Ziket and Zinet

Zikorean Poetry

A Ziket has two poetic lines, the first line should contain 1 to 8 syllables and the second line should be of 1 to 5 syllables or vice versa. Ziket can be written in unrhymed or rhymed poetry.

A Zikelite consists of two or more than two Zikets.

A Zinet has one poetic line that has 1 to 5 syllables to deliver a theme.

A Zinlite consists of two or more than two Zinets.

A Zeelite consists of two or more than two Zikets followed by one or more than one Zinets, depending on the mood and revelation.

Source:: https://allpoetry.com/topic/show/269075133-How-to-Write-Zikorean-Poetry

Effort made to define the meaning of a few old or obsolete words from English vocabularies in the Zikorean Poetry Structure.

Hope you will enjoy reading

Part-21

History of Tarmac

Tarmac means runway or a tarmacadam road

The material used for surfacing roads or

outdoor areas, consisting of broken stone and tar.

Clipping of tarmacadam which is tar + macadam

macadam is crushed stones).

Originally a trademark owned

by its inventor Edgar Hooley.

By 1902 Hooley had patented process

of heating tar, adding slag to the mix and

breaking stones within mixture to form smooth road surface.

Having perfected the operation,

Hooley began transforming road surfaces;

Nottingham's Radcliffe Road was world's first tarmac road

The story goes that Hooley was surveying in Derby

and saw a smooth section of road near an ironworks.

When investigated he was told a barrel of

tar had fallen on the road, and waste slag from furnaces

had been poured on it to clear up mess; - tarmac was born.

Tarmac is proprietary trademark for

a specific bituminous binder used to

build our highways and even our byways.

Macadam is a form of pavement devised

by Scottish inventor John Loudon McAdam

in the 18th century

McAdam's road cross section was composed of a

compacted subgrade of crushed granite or greenstone

designed to support the load covered by a

surface of light stone to absorb wear and tear, shed water

When a tar binder was sprayed or poured over

the macadam, as started to occur in the

late 19th century, pavement was called tarmacadam

—a word which was shortened to Tarmac

for a specific company's binder.

Tarmac is now used as a general term for

roads and runways consisting of tarmacadam.

~X~

Ague

Ague is the term for an infectious fever

marked by regular paroxysms of chills and sweating.

It's a fever or shivering fit.

Ague is derived from the Latin root

'febris acuta' meaning sharp fever.

By the next century, the association with

the fever and sickness from malaria

stuck to the word and, in colonial times

the definition ague included

a generally malady caused by bad air

Ague is one of the oldest known

human plagues, described by Herodotus.

It's now known as malaria and it still

afflicts up to half a billion people worldwide

The earliest known use of the verb ague is

in the mid 1600s.

OED's earliest evidence for ague is from 1636s

in writing of Thomas Heywood, playwright and poet.

The word is historically associated

with the feverish symptoms that's seen in malaria

in which red blood cells are attacked by

a parasite transmitted by

the anopheles mosquito.

~X~

Croup

The word croup comes from the early Modern English verb

croup meaning "to cry hoarsely."

The noun describing the disease originated in

southeastern Scotland and became widespread

after Edinburgh physician Francis Home published

the 1765 treatise

An Inquiry into Nature, Cause, Cure of the Croup.

In English dialect, croup means "to cry hoarsely"

'twas likely coined to imitate the sound of coughing.

Croup is usually caused by viral infection

most often parainfluenza virus.

Croup is an obstruction caused by swelling of larynx,

trachea, and bronchi that occurs in children

as a result of a virus; by definition

"marked by episodes of difficult breathing

and low-pitched cough resembling the bark of a seal."

~X~

Dog's breakfast/dinner

Since the late 19th century, the expression

dog's breakfast has been chiefly used in British slang

for a distasteful, inedible mess

or mixture, literally and figuratively.

It is suggested that this dates from a time before

canned dog food when a pup's breakfast would have

consisted of dinner leftovers

from the night before hence, "a mess."

Not to be confused with a parallel

expression "a dog's dinner" which means

quite the opposite; a poor piece of work; a mess.

The slang lexicographer Eric Partridge

cited Glasgow circa 1934

as its place, time of origin, though he noted

Australians also used the phrase with the

same meaning as "confusion, mess, turmoil."

The term dog's dinner fashionably

arrives by the beginning of the 20th century.

Like dog's breakfast, it refers to a

figurative mess but additionally

connotes that someone or something is a mess

concerning their dress or appearance.

~X~

Escalator

Escalator is a powerdriven set of stairs

arranged like an endless belt that ascend /descend

it's moving staircase consisting of an endlessly

circulating belt of steps driven by motor

which conveys people between the floors of a building.

The word escalator originated

as a trademarked term for the Otis

Elevator Company's moving staircase.

The earliest working type of escalator

was patented in 1892

by Jesse W. Reno and was actually

introduced in 1896

as a novelty ride at Coney Island

a theme park in New York.

The public first encountered the word escalator

—but with a capital, Escalator—

when the technology was demonstrated

at the Paris Exposition in 1900.

Oddly, although mechanical escalators go

up and down, the verb escalate
—which first appeared

in print in 1944 refers only to

things rising (literally and figuratively)

As Otis did little to protect its rights

to the mark, a 1950 court ruling

moved escalator into the public domain.

~X~

Dropsy

Dropsy sounds like it might suggesting

the "drooping" of swollen tissue

but in fact it was formed from Latin

and Middle English alterations

derives of the Greek noun hydrops,

from the noun hydor meaning "water."

Dropsy was a term used to describe

swelling and was synonymous with heart failure

Its treatment options were scanty and

were aimed to cause "emptying of the system"

or to relieve fluid retention.

These remedies were rudimentary,

erratic in action, and associated

with inconvenient side effects.

Dropsy is the malfunction of digestive power

in the liver and is called hydropsy from

hydro (that's water) and pisis which is disease,

whence hydropisis is a watery disease.

Edema means swelling caused by fluid in tissues

It usually occurs in the feet, ankles, legs

but it can involve one's entire body.

Historical diagnosis of dropsy –

which is now obsolete
- indicated

abnormal accumulation of fluid;

By the beginning of nineteenth century

the reports of John Blackall and Richard Bright

provided new insight by marking

dropsy into that of cardiac and

renal origins. ~X~

Funky

Funky of the noun funk, lingered in English

This noun and the verb funk, meaning "to subject to an

offensive smell or smoke," probably derived

from funquer, French dialect verb

meaning "to give off smoke."

Funky means having an offensive odor

The word 'funk' is derived from the Latin

'fumigare' which literally means 'to smoke'

and connotations linked to 'odour', and 'musty'.

Its adjective 'funky' was commonly used

to describe jazz music as it was something

that was 'earthy' or deeply felt.

In 1784s "funky" meaning "musty" was first documented, which, in turn led to a sense

of "earthy" that was taken up around 1900s

in early jazz slang for something "deeply /strongly felt".

By end of the 17th century the adjective

funky had been formed from the noun to describe

something or someone having an offensive odor,

such as "a funky bar" or "a funky armpit."

In the early 20th century, the adjective was

picked up by jazz musicians who applied it

to low-down, earthy, bluesy music.

Further amelioration of funky

occurred in the 1960s when it came to be

used as a generalized term of approval for

something unconventionally fashionable.

~X~

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Mod is a modification made to something by

its owner / user in order to change

its appearance or function

Originated from Scottish Gaelic mod

The term mod derives from modernist, a term

used in the 1950s to describe

modern jazz musicians and fans.

Mod is a shortening of modern

and perhaps modernist, a term used to

describe a player of modern jazz

In 1960s Britain, mod identified

a young person who dressed stylishly in

tailored suits or miniskirts and rode around on

a motor scooter listening to the blues

and to soul music— rather than the heavier

rock music emerging at the time.

By association, the name came to be used as

adjective for fashionable people and

for things stylish and trendy (in other words, modern)

Modish is also an adjective

meaning "fashionable" and "stylish,"

but it is a much older one (entering

English in mid-1600s) and unrelated,

being based on the French word mode

which denotes a way of living thinking or dressing.

~X~

Dashing

The verb dash is believed to be from Middle French

Middle French dachier, meaning "to impel forward."

> It first appears in 13thcentury English

as a verb for literally —and, later,

figuratively striking something so as to

break it into pieces, as in now common phrases

"dashed to pieces" and "dashed hopes."

By the 19th century, present participle

dashing was being used as an adjective

to describe someone or something that struck a person

as being remarkably spirited

or attractive in appearance or manner,

as in "a dashing young horse"

or "the debutante looked dashing."

A century earlier the noun dash

gained a similar meaning,

"a flashy or showy display."

That sense is found in expression "to cut a dash."

~X~

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Hornswoggle is a slang word

of some considerable mystery

The word appears to have originated

in the southern United States

in the early 19th century.

The earliest known written record

comes from an 1829 issue of

The Virginia Literary Magazine

in its glossary of Americanisms.

Hornswoggle means to trick or deceive someone

The earliest written use of the word

comes from an 1829s article on Americanisms published in the Virginia Literary

Museum and Journal of Belles Lettres, Arts, & c.

in which it's given the charming definition

of "to embarrass irretrievably."

This same article provides examples of a

number of other linguistic specimens that were

thought to be particular to North America

in the early 19th century several

of which are worth repeating:

honeyfuggle ("to quiz, to cozen")

mollagausauger ("a stout fellow"), and

coudeript ("thrown into fits").

~X~

'Moron,' 'Idiot,' and 'Imbecile' It wasn't until the early 19th but whose intelligence does not We have occasion to express displeasure exceed century with the actions or behavior that of a normal child of that the word began to be used as a noun. of another, we about seven years Idiot, from the Greek choose to impugn person's level Morons —Those whose mental of intelligence development is idios ("private" or "one's with a choice insulting word or above that of an imbecile, but does not exceed own"), two. that of a normal child of a certain contingent of Idiot is the oldest of go-to insults about twelve years. these words, Of these three words moron is the have a history of It is being used since clinical use newest the 14th century. which makes them less desirable (it dates to the early 20th Over the years idiot has taken on to use than others. century), Luckily, there are many more the one coined specifically a number of for the options. meanings, ranging from "an ignorant Like Idiot, imbecile, and purpose of medical diagnosis moron unschooled person" The word comes from the These were, not so long ago, used in Greek mõros, to "jester, professional fool" to meaning "foolish, stupid" shares a psychological "Stimpy" (of "Ren and" classification fame). system, each one was assigned this etymology with words such as sophomore And since at least the 17th century fairly specific range of ("a student in the second year abilities. at college the word has been used in theatre or a 4-year secondary Idiots —Those so **Defective** school") in colloquial insulting sense and morosoph ("a learned that the mental development never exceeds fool"). similar to how it is often heard today. that or a normal child of Imbecile began its life in English in If one chooses to use these about two years. Words in some Imbeciles —Those whose 16th century as an development is adjective, meant "weak, hierarchical order to separate higher than that of an (the word comes from the Latin idiot, imbecillus. I'm not in a position to

meaning "weak, weakminded") stop

However, one may do so in proper manner ~X~

Zolist

Zoilist is one who makes bitter, carping,

and belittling critical judgments.

The word Zoilist come from the works of Zoilus

Zoilus was an Ancient Greek classical

writer and grammarian who became known as

one of the most vitriolic critics of Homer,

> author of The Iliad and The Odyssey.

Consequently, a zoilist is an overly-

critical and judgmental nitpicker.

The earliest known use of the noun Zoilist

> is in the late 1500s.

OED's earliest evidence for Zoilist

is from 1594s in the writing of Thomas Nashe, writer.

> **OED** is Oxford English **Dictionary**

Zoilist is formed within English, by derivation.

Sorner

Sorner(Scotland) is one who obtrudes

themselves on another for bed and board.

That means sorner is to impose in

order to obtain hospitality

In Scotch law - a person who takes meat and drink from

others by force or menaces, without paying

The earliest known use of the noun sorner is in

the Middle English period i.e.,

(1150 to 1500).

OED's earliest evidence for sorner is from

1449 in Scottish Acts, James II.

~X~

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Logorrhea means excessive and often

incoherent talkativeness or wordiness

the composition of logorrhea

From logo- (prefix meaning 'word; speech')

And -rrhea (suffix meaning 'flowing')

probably modelled after diarrhea.

Logorrhea is of late 19th century vintage

plucked from New Latin, Used in English

since the end of medieval period.

In psychology, logorrhea

(from Ancient Greek logos "word" and rheo "to flow")

is a communication disorder that

causes excessive wordiness repetitiveness,

which can cause incoherency

Logorrhea is sometimes classified as a

mental illness though commonly classified

as symptom of mental illness or brain injury.

This ailment often reported as a symptom

of Wernicke's aphasia, where damage to

the language processing center of the brain

creates difficulty in selfcentered speech.

Logorrhea characterized by "rapid,

uncontrollable, and incoherent speech".

Occasionally, patients with logorrhea

may produce speech with normal prosody and

a slightly fast speech rate.

Other related symptoms include the use of

neologisms (new words without clear derivation,

like hipidomateous for hippopotamus),

words that bear no apparent meaning, and,

in some extreme cases, the creation of

new words and morphosyntactic constructions

~X~

Boss

The word boss, borrowed from the Dutch, has been with

American English language since 1600s

The word first appears in the form boss

in 1806, used by Washington Irving.

Boss has long meant, and continues to mean, a

"person in charge," especially used,

of course, in professional contexts.

Boss has also long been a slang term for "excellent" ~X~

Outstink

Earliest known use of outstink

It was in the mid 1600.

OED's earliest evidence for outstink is

before 1640, in the writing

of John Fletcher, playwright.

OED means Oxford English Dictionary

Outstink means to smell worse than

have a more powerful stench than

because the action of stinking more than others

is not generally a desirable thing.

Reference of the word was seen in The Fifth Book of

The Works of Francis Rabelais, 1694

Chocolate

The history of chocolate begins its

4,000 years of journey in ancient

Mesoamerica, present day Mexico

and that's birthplace of chocolate.

It's there that the first cacao plants

which chocolate is made from, were found.

The Olmec, one of the earliest

civilizations in Latin
America, were

the first to turn cacao plant into chocolate.

They drank their chocolate during rituals

and used it as medicine.

The words chocolate, cacao, and cocoa

all come ultimately from Nahuatl

Nahuatl, known informally as Aztec, it's a

language of Uto-Aztecan language family.

Cacao is the oldest of these words in English

it's a direct borrowing of the Spanish spelling

used for the Nahuatl word cacahuatl

Cacao was the spelling used by the

conquistador Hernán Cortés, who introduced

chocolate to Europe in 1519

following his visit to the court of the

Aztec king Montezuma II where he was served

a bitter cacao-bean drink

Now, it refers to the dried seeds of cacao plant.

Those seeds are also called, cocoa beans

chocolate originally meant "a beverage

made by heating cocoa with water or milk,"

that is, what we today call cocoa.

~X~

Prolix

Prolix means (of speech or writing)

using or containing too many words

That means tediously lengthy.

It derives from Latin prolixus

a Latin term means "extended" or "copious."

Prolixus originated from combination

of the prefix pro- (which means "forward")

and the past participle of liquere

a verb meaning "to be fluid."

True to that history, something

that is prolix flows on and on.

The earliest known use of the verb prolix is

in the mid 1500s.

OED's earliest evidence for prolix is from

before 1538s, in the writing of Wilfrid Holme, author

It is also recorded as an adjective from

the Middle English period (1150s —1500s).

Prolix may have the crisp efficiency

of a good 21st century brand name,

but the word is long established and

of a classical origin borrowed into

English from Anglo-French and Latin

during the period known as Middle English,

its ultimate origin is Latin

prolixus, meaning "extended."

~X~

Kahuna

Kahuna is a Hawaiian word

that refers to an expert in any field.

Historically, it has been used to

refer to doctors, surgeons and dentists

as well as priests, ministers, and sorcerers.

The etymology of the word is not certain

Some argue that it is based on Hawaiian

kahu, meaning "caretaker," and implies

a keeper of knowledge in a field.

Others suggest it is from huna, which connotes

something concealed (esoteric knowledge).

The earliest known use of the noun

big kahuna is in the 1880s.

OED's earliest evidence for big kahuna

is from 1886, in Leprosy there

Surfers picked up the term in the 1950s

as a moniker for someone

who is an expert at riding the surf.

~X~

Circumlocution

Circumlocution means the use of many words where

fewer would do, especially in a

deliberate attempt to be vague or evasive.

circumlocution derives from the Latin

Latin circum-, meaning "around,"

Latin locutio, meaning "speech"

Literally means "roundabout speech."

> Since at least the early 16th century

English writers have used circumlocution

with disdain, naming a thing to stop, or avoid.

The earliest known use of the noun

circumlocution in early 1500s.

OED's earliest evidence for circumlocution

> is from around 1518, in the writing of

Alexander Barclay, poet and clergyman.

~X~

Big enchilada

It means a person or thing of great importance.

Some use the term big enchilada when

when need an extremely casual

way to refer to their boss, or to someone

who is otherwise the top dog or head honcho.

Most word experts think that big enchilada

which was first used in the 1970's

was a spin-off of earlier idiom big cheese

also a slang term for a boss or leader.

between 1970-75s it was recorded

on pattern of such expressions as big cheese, big wheel

Enchilada is the past participle of

Spanish verb enchilar means to flavour with chilli.

Figuratively, 'the whole enchilada' is

American expression that means the whole thing

the complete package and dates from 1970s

and apparently is used in this sense on the

infamous Nixon White House tapes.

An enchilada is also a Mexican

tortilla rolled around a savory mixture

usually of meat or beans and covered

with chili sauce and cheese.

~X~

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Nidor is a borrowing from Latin.

Comes from the Latin word nīdor.

Some feels it's formed within English, by derivation.

It means a strong smell;

especially, smell of cooking or burning meat/fat.

Some people find the smell of cooking meat

objectionable, while some think it rather pleasant

Word nidor likely elicits reactions

in accordance with these sentiments.

The Oxford English Dictionary

defines it as "Belching which brings forth

an unpleasant taste or odour."

Samuel Johnson, in his 1755s Dictionary had

definition that was slightly more specific, and

considerably more ugly "eructation with

the taste of undigested roast meat"

In other words, meatburps.

The earliest known use of the noun nidor

is in the early 1600s.

OED's earliest evidence for nidor is from

before 1620, in the writing of

Martin Fotherby, bishop of Salisbury.

~X~

Periphrasis

Periphrasis is use of a longer phrasing

in place of possible shorter form of expression

When one chooses a longer or less straightforward way

of saying something, one uses periphrasis

Like, describing someone as "more intelligent"

instead of the word "smarter."

Periphrasis word was borrowed into English

in the early 16th century via Latin from

Greek periphrazein, which in turn comes

from the prefix peri-, meaning "all around."

and the verb phrazein, means "to point out."

Periphrasis can be contrasted

with a related word holophrasis

that refers to the expression of a complex

of ideas by a single word.

Both are also related to antiphrasis,

which refers to the usually

ironic or humorous use of words in senses

opposite to generally accepted meanings

like, in a phrase like "an ancient creature 2 days old."

~X~

Malodorous

Malodorous is having a bad odor

It is a 1832, word

of Latin origin meaning "bad, badly, ill, wrong

from French word mal means "evil, ill, wrong, wrongly"

from Latin male means "badly," or malus

Mal- is used to form words for bad things, and in this

case, mal-odor-ous means having a bad odor.

~X~

Hapax legomenon

Hapax legomenon is a visually

very impressive word

but it is woefully underused

because it refers to a rare thing

a hapax legomenon is a word or form

that occurs only once in a document

Hapax legomenon is a borrowing

from Greek hápax legomenon, that's composed of

the adverb hápax "once, one time" and

the neuter singular present passive

participle legómenon "(being) said,"

from the verb légein "to say."

(Hapax is also used by itself in

English as a noun

Earliest known use of the noun

hapax legomenon is in late 1600s.

OED's earliest evidence for

hapax legomenon is from 1692,

in the writing of John Dunton bookseller.

~X~

Mumblecrust

Mumblecrust derived from the name of a stock

> character in medieval theatrical farces,

a mumblecrust is a toothless beggar.

The word refers to a toothless, haggard beggar

(as portrayed in medieval comedy show)

The earliest known use of the noun

> mumblecrust is in the mid 1500s.

OED's earliest evidence for mumblecrust is

> from before 1556 in the

writing of Nicholas Udall

A schoolmaster and playwright.

mumblecrust is formed within

English language by compounding.

Mumblecrust isn't a flattering term.

Although, if one is in fact a mumblecrust,

s/he probably doesn't care if thrown

this insult as s/he got bigger issues.

~X~

Loiter-Sack

Loiter-sack is formed within

English language by compounding.

The only known use of the noun

loiter-sack is in the late 1500s.

OED's only evidence for

loiter-sack is from 1594,

in the writing of John Lyly, writer and playwright.

OSD Means Oxford English Dictionary

It means an idling, lazy good-for-nothing

Literally, someone who seems to spend all day

in bed doing nothing useful.

~X~

Exsibilate

'Exsibilate' is a rare verb

Its meaning 'to hiss a poor

performer off the stage'

The word derived from Latin 'ex''out' + 'sībilāre' 'to hiss

The word is of 17th century

The earliest known use of the word

noun 'exsibilation' is in mid 1600s.

OED's earliest evidence for 'exsibilation'

is from 1640s in the writing of Joseph Hall

Bishop of Norwich religious writer, satirist.

(Webster's New International Dictionary

2nd Ed., 1934) states its meaning

To reject with or as with hissing.

A very useful word when attending

certain concerts or plays.

Formication

'Formication' comes to English

from the Latin word for "ant" 'formica'.

It is an early 18th century Word

Originates from Latin 'formicatio',

from 'formicare' means 'crawl like an ant'

(said of the pulse or skin),

'Formication' is an abnormal

sensation resembling that made by insects

creeping / crawling in or over the skin

Logophile

A logophile is someone who loves words

The logo of logophile comes from the Greek word

logos, meaning "speech, word, reason."

The phile part means "loving; having a

fondness or affinity for,"

and it comes from the Greek word

philos, meaning "beloved, dear, loving."

Despite there being quite a. few word-lovers,

logophile is not common enough

to find its way into most dictionaries.

Someone who loves words is a logophile.

If an interesting vocabulary

word sends one to the dictionary

to learn about it (including its etymology),

s/he just might be a logophile.

The earliest known use of the noun

logophile is in the 1950s.

OED's earliest evidence for

logophile is from 1959

in the Sunday Times (London)

~X~

Avoirdupois

Avoirdupois is a measurement

system of weights using pounds and ounces as units.

The name derives ultimately from French

avoir de pois (means "goods of weight" or "property").

It was first commonly used in 13th century AD

and was updated in 1959.

In 1959, by an international

agreement, the definitions of the pound and ounce

became standardized in countries which use

the pound as a unit of mass.

Pound of 16 ounces and the ounce of 16 drams

When avoirdupois first appeared in English

in the 15th century, it . referred to

"goods sold by weight," which is also the meaning of its

Middle English predecessor, avoir de pois

Today, avoirdupois most commonly

refers to the system of weight measurement

It was William Shakespeare, in his play

Henry IV, Part 2, who first used

avoirdupois to mean "heaviness" ~X~

Twee

The word is traditionally British

and its original meaning could have described

a dollhouse "tiny, dainty, or miniature."

The word twee started life meaning pretty or nice and

derived from the sound a small child might make

when attempting to pronounce the word 'sweet'.

Twee is a word of 1900–05

Although twee is still considered a British term

it's increasingly popular in America.

~X~

Sanctimonious

Sanctimonious is a word of early

17th century (in sense 'holy in character')

> It comes from the Latin

sanctimonia, means "holiness,"

from the root sanctus means "holy."

> Sanctimony is quality of

being hypocritically devout

It's pretending to be morally

being superior to other people

Before this word gained its modern meaning,

> it was used to mean "virtuousness."

First recorded in 1530-40.

Sanctimonious once meant

"possessing sanctity; holy sacred."

> The genuinely holy aspect faded

William Shakespeare is credited with first using

> sanctimonious to mean

"hypocritically pious or devout."

~X~

Vacuous

"Vacuous" appeared in English

in the middle of the 17th century,

A word of 1640s, means "empty"

> Originated from Latin

vacuus means "empty, void, free"

The word has enriched English language

it gave not only vacuous but also

vacuum and evacuate.

Defines as having or showing a lack of

intelligence or serious thought

lacking meaning, importance or substance

At first literally describing

something that was empty.

It acquired its figurative usage in 1848s

describing one who lacks any substance of the mind

Vacuous concept expresses or characterized

by a lack of ideas or intelligence

inane; stupid, a vacuous book purposeless;

idle a vacuous way of life.

~X~

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The word Cacafuego means "swaggering braggart"

cacafuego is borrowing from Spanish.

literally translating as "shitfire."

Cacafuego was the nickname of a ship

captured by the Pirate Francis
Drake, who is

presumably the braggart referred by the word.

Earliest known use of cacafuego

is in the mid

OED's earliest evidence for cacafuego

is from before 1640, in

the writing of John Fletcher, playwright.

Nuestra Señora de la Concepción

was reportedly nicknamed Cagafuego, meaning

"shitfire" (or "fireshitter"), by her Spanish sailors

On March, 1579 The Golden Hind

demolished Cacafuego with cannon

fire off the coast of Panama.

Drake confiscated an unbelievable

amount of precious metals and jewels

from Cacafuego—80 pounds of gold,

two tons of silver, pearls, and precious stones.

~X~

Roorback

A number of words in English come from someone's name,

In most cases the name they come from a real one.

Occasionally a fake name will sneak into an

etymology, as the case with roorback.

Roorback a bit of an obscure –

some might say it is obsolete

A roorback is a false story published to damage

someone politically, like a candidate

trying to get elected – aka dirty tricks.

But how did political lies get the name 'roorback'

The word comes from fictitious Baron von Roorback,

an invented person who served as the source of a

particularly unpleasant rumor about

presidential candidate
James Knox Polk

in 1844 he was the 11th president

of the United States, serving from

1845-49 (that he had branded

dozens of slaves with his initials)

After Baron von Roorback imaginary

author of Roorback's Tour Through the Western & Southern

States, from which a passage was purportedly

quoted in an attempt to disparage the

presidential candidate in 1844

Jackassery

Jackassery states as a piece of stupidity

A large quantity of stupid, foolish behavior

referring to a group of of people

exhibiting poor judgment.

Earliest known use of it is in the 1830s.

OED's earliest evidence for jackassery

is from 1833s in Fraser's Magazine.

OED is Oxford English Dictionary

The word is formed within English by derivation.

Amatorculist

Amatorculist is a person who has a

limited extent of knowledge about

the art and methods of love

A little insignificant lover;

> a pretender to affection"

(Source: Samuel Johnson, A **Dictionary**

> of the English Language)

It is originated From Latin

It is based on 'amor' means "love" and

'amare' means "to love",

which also produced the Latin root

for the English borrowing 'amorous'.

Earliest documented use 1731.

This word reveals the male domination

of Roman culture, the assumption

being that a good lover is a powerful one

and that a weak one is a bad one.

~X~

Mundivagant

Mundivagant is borrowing from Latin

'Mundus' means "world" and'vagans' means "wandering"

Defines as wandering over the world

It's a rare word that little is known about.

The earliest known use of the adjective

'mundivagant' is in the mid 1600s.

OED's earliest evidence for mundivagant is

from 1656, in the writing of

Thomas Blount, antiquary and lexicographer.

~X~

Logy

Logy means lacks physical or mental energy

Or sluggish; dull; lethargic.

The origins of the word are shrouded

in uncertainty, with etymologists'

best guess being a Dutch word log, meaning "heavy."

That word is cousin to the Middle Low

German luggich, meaning "lazy."

Earliest known use of logy is in the 1850s.

OED's earliest evidence for logy is from 1859s,

in the writing of John R. Bartlett,

ethnologist and historian.

~X~

Oscitancy

Oscitancy is drowsiness usually

demonstrated by yawns

The word is formed within English, by derivation.

The word is Latin in origin,

from oscitare, "to yawn.

Earliest known use is in the 1600s.

OED's earliest evidence for oscitancy is

from 1609 in the writing of T. Tuke.

Its adjectival relation, oscitant, is

also available when you want to describe one

who is either yawning with drowsiness,

or, less charitably and more obscurely

one who is lazy or stupid.

Peepy

Peppy means in slang is full of vitality;

Peepy is too cute aword,

It's mostly unknown outside of British English.

It's found to be a charming and evocative

> synonym to sleepy,

coming as it does from the "to peer out" and

> "to emerge" meanings of peep.

Peepy is formed within English by derivation.

Earliest known use of peepy in 1600s.

OED's earliest evidence for peepy is

> from 1699, in the writing of B. E.

Peepy has been in use since the late 17th century,

so there's no reason, other than

> ignorance, to avoid it.

Charles Dickens used the term in

> **Dombey and Son** (1848s) ~X~

Diphthong

Diphthong is a gliding monosyllabic

speech sound (like, vowel combination

at the end of toy)

That starts at or near the articulatory

position for one vowel and moves to or toward

the position of another

Diphthong is largely a linguistics term

Diphthong comes from the Greek word diphthongos

which means "having two sounds."

The word's Middle English form was diptonge,

from the Middle French diptongue

but in modern English the h was introduced

into the first syllable in honor

of the word's Greek ancestor diphthongos,

from di- and phthongos, meaning "voice, sound."

Notice the di- for "double."

So diphthongs are double vowel sounds

in words like chair, fear, or pout

If two vowels in a row are the same, as

in boot or beer, then it's not a diphthong.

By the mid-16th century the Great Vowel Shift

had created two new diphthongs out of the former

~X~

Mumper

Mumper means a begging impostor

Mumper is formed within English, by derivation.

Mumper is a dialectal word

most commonly found in England

coming from old dialectal sense of the word

'mump' meaning "to beg, or sponge."

There is a second mumper, meaning "one that sulks,"

coming from another old sense of mump,

this one meaning "sullenness, silent displeasure."

Earliest known use of the noun mumper

is in the middle of 1600s.

OED's earliest evidence for mumper is from

before 1652s, in the writing of Richard Brome, playwright.

Charlatan

Charlatan is someone who makes usually

showy pretenses to knowledge or ability

In addition to what stated above

charlatan is synonymous with quack

("an ignorant, misinformed, or dishonest

practitioner of medicine")

Charlatan is a borrowing from French.

From Middle French charlatan from Old Italian

ciarlatano ("quack") a blend of ciarlatore

means ("chatterer") + cerretano means ("hawker, quack")

literally "native of Cerreto"

(Cerreto di Spoletobeing a village

in Umbria, Italy known for its quacks).

Earliest known use of the word

charlatan is in the early 1600s.

OED's earliest evidence for charlatan

is from 1618, in the writing of

Daubridgcourt Belchier playwright.

~X~

Ambidexter

Ambidexter means one that takes bribes from both sides

It has other, non-briberyrelated meanings

including "one that practices duplicity" and

"one that uses both hands with equal facility."

Earliest known use of the word is in

the Middle English period (1150s—1500s).

OED's earliest evidence for it

is from 1395, in 12 Concl. Lollards.

Ambidexter is derived from Latin roots

'ambi' meaning "both" and 'dexter' meaning "right"

Thus, ambidextrous is literally

"both right" or "both favorable".

~X~

Fantod

Fantod is a state of tension and irritable

These days this word is very useful

People may say that, but that makes it no less true.

The exact origin of it is a mystery

but it may have arisen from English

Fantigue—a word (once used by Charles Dickens) that refers

to a state of great tension or excitement and

may be a blend of fantastic and fatigue.

American author Charles Frederick Briggs

provides with early recorded use of it in 1839s.

~X~

Nugatory

Nugatory means of little or no consequence

it comes from the Latin adjective

nugatorius which can mean not only "trifling"

or "frivolous" but also "futile."

In Latin, nugae are trifles—that is,

things of little value, substance or importance.

The earliest known use of the adjective

nugatory is in early 1600s.

OED's earliest evidence for for nugatory

from 1603, in the writing

of Philemon Holland translator.

Nugatory first appeared in

English in the 17th century;

~X~

Pettifogger

You must have been acquainted in your service life

with people who quibbles over trifles

Who raises trivial points to argue

about unimportant things

If so, you were acquainted with one who can

rightly be called a pettifogger.

Word was originally two: pettie and fogger,

pettie being a variant spelling of petty

a word that ably describes the small-minded;

and fogger being ... somewhat opaque.

The mid-16th century word itself combined

petty — "small," from the French petit —

with the obsolete word fogger

"underhanded dealer," which probably came from

a wealthy 15th century
Bavarian

family of merchants, the Fuggers.

In English, "pettie fogger" was originally

a small-time operator of shady business.

~X~

Ablach

Ablach means insignificant person

While none would accede to the assertion that

> any person is in truth insignificant

but the word ablach (in Scottish English, anyway)

> used to refer to a person one has deemed so.

The Scots have been using this word thusly

> since the late 19th century.

The word comes from Scottish Gaelic,

in which language it means, um "mangled carcass"

Scottish Gaelic, "mangled carcass, brat" akin

> to Irish Gaelic, "carcass, corpse, carrion"

> > In 1874 it was first used

in the meaning defined above.

"Ablach" means "of the apples/fruits" in Old Irish.

~X~

Dandiprat

Dandiprat means a contemptible

or an insignificant person

It's unknown why British people starting

referring to those they found despicable

or otherwise wanting in some regard with the term

dandiprat in 16th century, but they did.

The use now archaic but that doesn't mean

it's unavailable for modern speakers

If someone truly behaving badly, throwing

the word at them might just be just the thing

It should also be noted that dandiprat

refers to small English silver coin worth three halfpence

in the early 16th century

The origin of the term is unknown.

The earliest known use of the noun

dandiprat is in the early 1500s.

OED's earliest evidence for dandiprat is

from around 1525 in the writing of

Duke of Norfolk.

~X~

Lestobiosis

Lestobiosis is a relationship

(as between species) in which covert thievery

replaces aggressive plundering

Lestobiosis is form of cleptobiosis,

which is "a mutual relation

in which members of one species (as of ants)

habitually steal food from another."

Earliest known use of lestobiotic

is in the 1910s.

OED's earliest evidence for lestobiotic

is from 1913 in the writing

of William Morton Wheeler.

The word is formed within English by derivation.

The word is originated from Latin

leistes means robber + biosis means mode of life

Ants have been studied and found

they are lestobiotic. (a "guest ant")

with termites because it nests within

the walls of termite mounds.


